IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for synchronously transferring an amount of local data from a local data storage medium to a remote data storage medium via a communications link having an available bandwidth, the local data storage medium associated with a local computer system having a local processor sequentially responsive to a plurality of local computer programs, the remote data storage medium associated with a remote computer system non-redundant of the local computer system and having a remote processor, the method comprising:

evaluating local user conditions associated with transfer of the local data;

based on the currently available bandwidth and the amount of local data, approximating a transfer time for the local data;

determining a status of the local processor, wherein the determining step includes determining if the local processor has reduced activity or is idle;

based on the approximated transfer time, the local user conditions, and the status of the local processor, selecting a time of day at which to transmit the local data to the remote data storage medium; and

automatically arranging transfer of the local data to the remote data storage medium via the communications link at the selected time of day.

2. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which, when loaded into a processor, implements ~~the~~ a computer-implemented method ~~of claim 1~~ for synchronously transferring an amount of local data from a local data storage medium to a remote data storage medium via a communications link having an available bandwidth, the local data storage medium associated with a local computer system having a local processor sequentially responsive to a plurality of local computer programs, the remote data storage medium associated with a remote computer system non-redundant of the local computer system and having a remote processor, the method comprising:

evaluating local user conditions associated with transfer of the local data;

based on the currently available bandwidth and the amount of local data, approximating a transfer time for the local data;

determining a status of the local processor, wherein the determining step includes determining if the local processor has reduced activity or is idle;

based on the approximated transfer time, the local user conditions, and the status of the local processor, selecting a time of day at which to transmit the local data to the remote data storage medium; and

automatically arranging transfer of the local data to the remote data storage medium via the communications link at the selected time of day.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 2, wherein the computer program comprises one of the plurality of local computer programs, and the processor comprises the local processor.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 2, wherein the processor comprises the remote processor.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, further comprising: automatically transmitting the local data to the remote data storage medium at the selected time.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, further comprising: automatically arranging for interruption of transfer of the local data based on the status of the local processor.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 6, further comprising: automatically interrupting transfer of the local data based on the status of the local processor.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 6, wherein the status of the local processor is inferred from one of: a status of a display device; a status of a memory; a configured processor utilization; and a time since a last interactive use of the local computer system.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 8, wherein the status of the display device comprises activation of a screen-saver.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 6, further comprising: after automatically arranging for interruption of transfer of the local data, automatically arranging for resumption of transfer of the local data based on the status of the local processor.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 10, further comprising: automatically resuming transfer of the local data based on the status of the local processor.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein the local user conditions comprise one of: a location of the local data; a preferred transfer time; a file extension associated with the local data; and a status of the communication link.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein the remote processor and the local processor are under independent control.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for synchronously transferring an amount of local data from a local data storage medium to a remote data storage medium via a communications link having an available bandwidth, the local data storage medium associated with a local computer system having a local processor sequentially responsive to a plurality of local computer programs, the remote data storage medium associated with a remote computer system non-redundant of the local computer system and having a remote processor, the apparatus comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium; and

a processor responsive to the computer-readable storage medium and to a computer program, the computer program, when loaded into the processor, operative to perform a computer-implemented method comprising:

evaluating local user conditions associated with transfer of the local data;

based on the currently available bandwidth and the amount of local data, approximating a transfer time for the local data;

determining a status of the local processor, wherein the determining step includes determining if the local processor has reduced activity or is idle;

based on the approximated transfer time, the local user conditions, and the status of the local processor, selecting a time of day to transmit the local data to the remote data storage medium; and

automatically arranging transfer of the local data to the remote data storage medium via the communications link at the selected time of day.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for managing transfer of data from a source data storage medium associated with a source computer system to a repository data storage medium associated with a repository computer system, the source computer system arranged to receive online requests for the data from a local computer system, and the repository computer system arranged to provide an online data storage service for the local computer system, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the local computer system for transfer of the data from the source data storage medium to the repository data storage medium;

based on the request, determining an authorization status of the local computer system to access the data, the authorization status based on whether an operator of the local computer system is licensed under predetermined intellectual property rights associated with the data; and

based on the authorization status, arranging for transfer of the data from the source data storage medium to the repository data storage medium,

the continued accessibility of the local computer system to the data in the repository data storage medium based on the authorization status of the local computer system.

16. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which, when loaded into a processor, implements the method of claim 15.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, further comprising: transmitting the data from the source data storage medium to the repository data storage medium.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, further comprising: sending the request by the local computer system to one of the source computer system and the repository computer system.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, wherein the source data storage medium is associated with an audio/visual content provider.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, further comprising: if the local computer system is not licensed, automatically offering to license the operator prior to transferring the data.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, further comprising: charging a fee to the operator for the license.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, wherein the fee is based on an intended use of the data by the operator.

23. (Withdrawn) A system for managing transfer of data from a source data storage medium to a repository data storage medium, the repository data storage medium arranged to provide an online data storage service for a local computer system, the system comprising:

a network communications interface;

a source coupled to the network communications interface, for receiving a request from the local computer system for transfer of the data from the source data storage medium to the repository data storage medium, and for arranging for determination of an authorization status of the local computer system to access the data, the authorization status based on whether an

operator of the local computer system is licensed under predetermined intellectual property rights associated with the data; and

an information processing system for processing the request received by the source, and for arranging transfer of the data from the source data storage medium to the repository data storage medium,

the continued accessibility of the local computer system to the data in the repository data storage medium based on the authorization status of the local computer system.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein the status is determined by direct monitoring of the local processor.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein the status is inferred by monitoring a status of other programs associated with the local computer system.

26. (New) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein the local user conditions comprise file extensions of the local data.

27. (New) The computer-implemented method according to claim 26, wherein local data having a first file extension is transferred immediately and wherein local data having a second file extension is transferred at a later time of day.